7/16/76

Dear Harold,

Your recent letters, incl. good news on spectro, arrived today. I am sorry about the long silence, but, as you may have guessed, it is simply because I am so busy. (No, nothing you wrote Jerry Ray offended me--at least, nothing I've had time to read, which includes your reference to Reagan's cabinet.) More than ever before, my time is not my own. It is all I can do to keep up with classes, class prep., executive editing, meetings, work,and the other incidentals, like travelling to Jacksonville to interview with a Judge on the 5th Cir. Also add real bad problems with publisher, who is a fink and who has finally come out of closet as an unprincipled, full-scale rip off artist. It's causing me grief and extra troubles, but I'll elaborate later.

I'll be writing Dave Wrone today, also.

Re Agent OSWALD, as my schedule now stands with job prospects in June of '77, it would be preferable if I went to school this fall. To do the book, I give up $300 a month from my father (for 4 moths) and my job, $4.00/hr, 15hr/wk. So, to make it worthwhile for me, I'd have to get this and more to take the time off. If you get in a position where you can make me an offer like that (incl. research & travel expenses) I would do it. Much as I would like to, please understand that the situation now is that, in terms of my future plans, doing it would mean some sacrafice for me. Is there any good prospect yet?

I sopke to a fed. practice expert about my doing depositions, and he felt pretty strongly that I couldn't unless I was admitted to the bar. He said we could try, but surely the other side would object, perhaps on unauthorized practice of law grounds, and they would almost certainly be upheld by the judge. However, he said that there is nothing to stop me from being present and advising the att'y doing the questioning. I am willing and anxious to do this, if such an arrangement is suitable to Jim. If he wants, I will need to be briefed (him, too).

I will think about what depos to take, what Q's to ask, etc.

I'm sorry that I must be so brief right now. I'm facing a really impossible week, with deadlines coming up, important meetings, and, at the worst time, 8 hours of driving class to which I was sentenced by a rotten judge after I was involved in an accident (not serious, not hurt). Also, please forgive my not calling when I was in Washington. I didn't know the stations had such an arrangement, and was considering calling, but I didn't get to my hotel until close to 10 and I dropped right off to sleep. Thanks for the tape, but sorry to say, it didn't record! I'll return soon. David Viscott, who was also on the show, was quite impressed with me, thinks my publisher is insane, and wants to recommend me to his agent, who is also Woodward/Bernstein's. He thinks I have a great future.

I am very sorry to hear about the problems with Lil, but their getting worse seemed inevitable to me after my last 2 visits; now, as then, I see no real prospect for a solution short of one that seems unacceptable. I was distressed at this Kabek business, especially that you would have had him back in your house, whatever his assurances to you. Unless there was some great benefit you expected to derrive, I think it was reprehensible for you to let him come again. Duane & I send our best to both.

Howard